

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 29, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-27 remain pending in the application. Claims 25 and 28 have been amended. Claims 7, 8, 19-21, 24, and 26 have been withdrawn. Claims 5, 10, and 16 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Each of the Examiner's rejections is discussed below.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-4, 6, 9, 11-15, 17, 18, 22, and 23 have been allowed.

Section 112

Claims 25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on the grounds that the originally filed disclosure did not disclose "gaps free of material used to form the transverse chambers."

Claim 25 has been amended above as suggested in the Office Action to replace the term "gap" with the term --aperture--. Claims 25 are now believed to be in proper form for allowance, and in indication to that effect is respectfully requested at this time.

Section 102

Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,883,053 to Pritchard et al. ("Pritchard"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pritchard fails to disclose or make obvious a bladder having first and second longitudinal chambers; a plurality of transverse chambers; and a plurality of elongate transverse apertures, each transverse aperture disposed between adjacent transverse chambers, extending from the first longitudinal chamber to the second longitudinal chamber, and having a longitudinal axis

extending substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of the transverse chambers. The apertures of Pritchard, labeled "A" in the figures presented in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, do not extend from first longitudinal chamber 42 to second longitudinal chamber 42. These apertures extend across only a short portion of the bladder; not from the first longitudinal chamber to the second longitudinal chamber. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be in proper form for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested at this time. Examination of withdrawn claims 7, 8, 19-21, and 24 is respectfully requested at this time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account No. 19-0733**.

Respectfully submitted,

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